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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP)

### OVERVIEW

An innovative, coordinated approach is protecting fragile upper watersheds in two Afghanistan provinces – Bamyan and Badakhshan - while improving natural-resource management and increasing biodiversity at the local and national levels. The Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP) builds on the past four years of USAID-supported efforts to help communities and local and national governments create the integrated infrastructure necessary to allow them to effectively manage scarce natural resources. USAID works closely with community members and councils, and representatives of Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) at the provincial and national levels, to create sustainable financial and social incentives – employment, in particular – to support conservation and natural resource management and to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor in northeast and central Afghanistan.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels (national, provincial, district, community)
- Facilitate community livelihood development by securing sustainable sources of direct monetary benefits to local communities (e.g. employment)
- Create and strengthen community governance institutions
- Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions affecting natural resource management
- Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and humans
- Support the Environment Education Program in both Wakhan and Band-e-Amir
- Support community rangers of Wakhan with equipment and training
- Recruit, train, and equip new community rangers in the northern plateau region of Bamyan
- Draft the final management plan for Band-e-Amir National Park and the associated document required by law
- Repair and renovate of tourism trek routes in Wakhan
- Support Bamyan MAIL and National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) at a provincial level regarding all activities in Band-e-Amir national park

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided English language training in the schools of Wakhan to 998 students (248 females)
- Trained 23 shepherds in Wakhan in better anti-predator stock management
- Completed the draft of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Plan
- Tested for the presence of antibodies against brucellosis (645 blood samples of livestock - 137 cattle, 68 yak, 374 sheep, and 66 goats) collected in Wakhan in 2010. Also tested 66 samples of goats for exposure to contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
- Provided english language training to 22 rangers and children of Band-e-Amir National Park
- Discovered a natural stone arch at the northern edge of northern Bamyan plateau, near Hazarchisma village, confirmed as the 12<sup>th</sup> largest in the world
- Completed the first-ever survey for urial sheep and ibex goats in Wakhan. Successfully handed over the local paravets the foot and mouth disease mass vaccination duty to cattle and domestic yak in upper Wakhan Valley, Badakhshan
- Facilitated and assisted in coordination of the Bamyan Tourism Investor Conference